

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilmaley**

Ref: **63**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **15/06/2016**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2016</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	32
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	27
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	43
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	21
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	18
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>204</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Kilmaley is wished a warm welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition and we are delighted you have taken this step. We very much hope that it will be the start of an enduring relationship that will see your community develop and grow. You are urged to get a hold of the Tidy Towns Handbook (if you haven't already done so) as this is full of useful guidance on planning your strategy. You have identified a three-year plan as on your to-do list and this is welcome. Your map is a very important element of the application and the adjudicator, who may not have visited your area before, will use it to navigate and locate areas where projects have taken place. The adjudicator really wants a scale map, perhaps hand drawn but this is not completely necessary, and with a code to show project areas. In this regard your map was quite hard to follow. Eight is a good number to start with on your committee but you will always need to be looking out for new blood, do also avail of volunteers for individual projects and don't be afraid to ask. Involvement with the school is important and the goal here would be to work on some joint projects through the year.

### **Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:**

The church is a simple but well presented building in a prominent central location. Neat lawns and cherry tree surrounds set it all off very well. O'Brien's post office and shop is a beautiful building which retains a traditional aspect. The ancient church occupies a commanding location overlooking the countryside. Communicating the story of this area is an aspect of this category. The area is well maintained. The daycare centre is a fine building with very clean and neat surrounds. The creche/school/sports centre are great facilities for the area and are very smart in their appearance. There is an awful lot of cold metal fencing however – painting this would greatly soften appearances. The playground and sports pitches are fantastic assets, also looking well. The Culleen Lodge & Gala Express are tidy and look well.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

This is a very rural location and as such much of the landscaping has been done for you. Stone walls, hedges and mature trees are the features that define the local character so your work should complement them. Do not rush into putting boxes or baskets of flowers here and there. Less is frequently more – flowers only really work well on windowsills or in containers or baskets by doorways or other points of interest.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:**

Your lakeshore development project provides a fantastic opportunity for your community to engage with your natural surroundings. It is excellent that you have been liaising with the national parks and wildlife service and Inland

fisheries Ireland and clearly are getting good advice. It would be no harm also making contact with the Clare county council heritage officer as there may be resources available which would be of assistance. As this project unfolds there will be opportunities for young and old to use this as a learning and amenity tool. Do share your thoughts with us on how you see this being planned. In the meantime you are wished every success with that (p.s. we would have liked to have visited the area but it was not shown on your map). Remember that wildlife is not confined to one area so do include hedges and fields and buildings in your plans. For example house martens nest in the eaves at the church, it would be a wonderful project to raise awareness of these little birds and their phenomenal migrations. The river (we do not know its name) is another important feature.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

One of the best initiatives you could take in this category is getting the school involved in the green flag program. This brings with it a culture of sustainability that can spread far beyond the school gates. In some groups a dedicated committee member is assigned the task of researching this topic and coming up with sensible ideas that can be applied. Remember, the ethos here is continual improvement so you will need to be always on the lookout for new opportunities to avoid waste generation. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

It is great that you participate in the national spring clean and this is a great event for getting people together in a spirit of community enhancement. You attracted a good crowd and gathered a phenomenal quantity of litter – well done – hopefully the volumes will be smaller next time. Do you have a programme of litter patrols? Awareness raising measures are also an important part of this category. Directional signage on approach roads need to be washed and poles painted. There was a light sprinkling of litter alongside roads and in kerbing, some of which looked old. This is something that would be resolved with regular patrols. A nice project would be to paint field gates a uniform colour. The bring bank was very tidy on adjudication day.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Many attractive one-off homes were admired throughout the town and all were presented to a very high standard on adjudication day. Stone wall boundaries work very well in knitting homes into their surrounds. They are to be encouraged in preference to wooden or wire fences. A fine estate of homes was admired across from the bring bank but was missing a name.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

Driving from Connolly it is not at first apparent when you have arrived at Kilmaley. A worthy project therefore would be the placement of appropriately designed welcome signs, these are normally done in stone but feel free to use your imagination. One was later admired at the Lisroe approach and this works well. The road off the R474 to the church is in a bad way with no markings or edges in many places. You will need to work with Clare county council to remedy this. On the approach from Lisroe picnic tables are nice but surfacing is poor while an abandoned wooden pallet and metal barrier should be reused elsewhere. The mid-Clare way panel near here is badly worn and should be removed or renovated.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was wonderful to visit Kilmaley to welcome you to the contest. Your community has a lot going for it and participation in Tidy Towns will help you to enhance these features. We look forward to returning in 2017 to check on progress – best of luck!